

Based on the committee's report and recommendations and our own analysis about the course and its place in our long range plans for Duxbury (please read our commentary on golf and the long range plan), we are recommending that the Town proceed with expansion. We take very seriously the sacred trust you place in us as your elected executive body and assure you that we are not making this recommendation in haste nor would we recommend it if we thought our water supply or environment was endangered by it. We ask that you come to Town Meeting, listen to the facts, support our position and approve the expansion.

## **Vote "No" on Article 11**

**By KAY FOSTER**

A few good reasons to oppose the proposed golf course expansion at North Hill:

— "The ground water underlying this town is the sole source of its present and future drinking water supply." (Duxbury Protective Bylaw, Section 406.1) Safe drinking water is the most basic service a town provides.

— North Hill is encircled by 9 of our 10 town wells. The proposed expansion is within the Aquifer Protection District, the zone of contribution for our wells.

— Fertilizers used on golf courses have the potential to contaminate ground water. Nitrate concentrations in excess of the maximum allowable limit of 10 parts per million are toxic to infants. Test wells at the existing course found more than 1/3 the allowable level of nitrates. (S.E.A. golf course feasibility study, April 1992.) Nine more holes would greatly increase the use of fertilizers which, together with nitrates from domestic septic systems, could well push nitrate levels in the town's drinking water above the allowable limit.

— Toxic chemicals are used in various combinations to maintain fairways, tees, and greens in good condition. Calling the process "Integrated Pest Management" and putting it in charge of a certified course superintendent doesn't make the pesticides themselves any less poisonous.

— An 18-hole golf course will increase the town's total water use by 10%. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulates the amount of water that may be taken from an aquifer, based on the rate of aquifer recharge. Withdrawing water faster than it can be replaced causes drying of ponds and wetlands, severely altering the environment. Even without a golf course, Duxbury is seriously overdrawing its permit.

The Golf Committee plans to use under 100,000 gallons a day to bypass the need for a permit. We may be able to fool the DEP, but nobody ever fooled Mother Nature.

— "A large area of preserved land is of significant value in itself, especially for purposes of local habitat and wildlife protection." (SEA study.) North Hill, being contiguous with Audubon's North Hill Marsh, Waiting Hill, the Old Town Forest, the Mayflower Woods, and the Rural & Historical Society's Round Pound, is a major part of the town's preserved natural land — by far the largest natural area in town.

— The proposed cost of the project is unrealistic. The estimate for the entire project this year is less than \$1.3 million; last year it was \$3 million. How is that possible?

— The plan fails to address several expensive problems:

The Merry Ave. entrance — Building inspector Kevin McDonald, in a memo to the selectmen last March, wrote "The access to the current clubhouse over Merry Ave. is clearly inadequate and will certainly be worse if the course is expanded." He suggested 3 other access points, the most viable being Mayflower St. opposite the transfer station.

The Clubhouse — The same memo stated "The existing clubhouse is not worth renovating and should be replaced in toto...at a site compatible with a new access point and drive." In their presentation to the Fiscal Advisory and Finance committees on Feb. 21, the Golf Committee stated that the clubhouse would need to be replaced in about 2 years. Article 11 only postpones the inevitable.

Archaeological Assessment — Because there are prehistoric sites on the adjacent to the property, the Massachusetts Historical Commission has requested an intensive, expensive (\$100,000 in Hanover) archaeological survey.

Liability — In case of water contamination, the town would be responsible for remediation, and water purification systems are very expensive.

—The town is being asked to approve construction without a clear picture of actual costs. Do we really want to risk our water supply for the sake of a budget golf course?